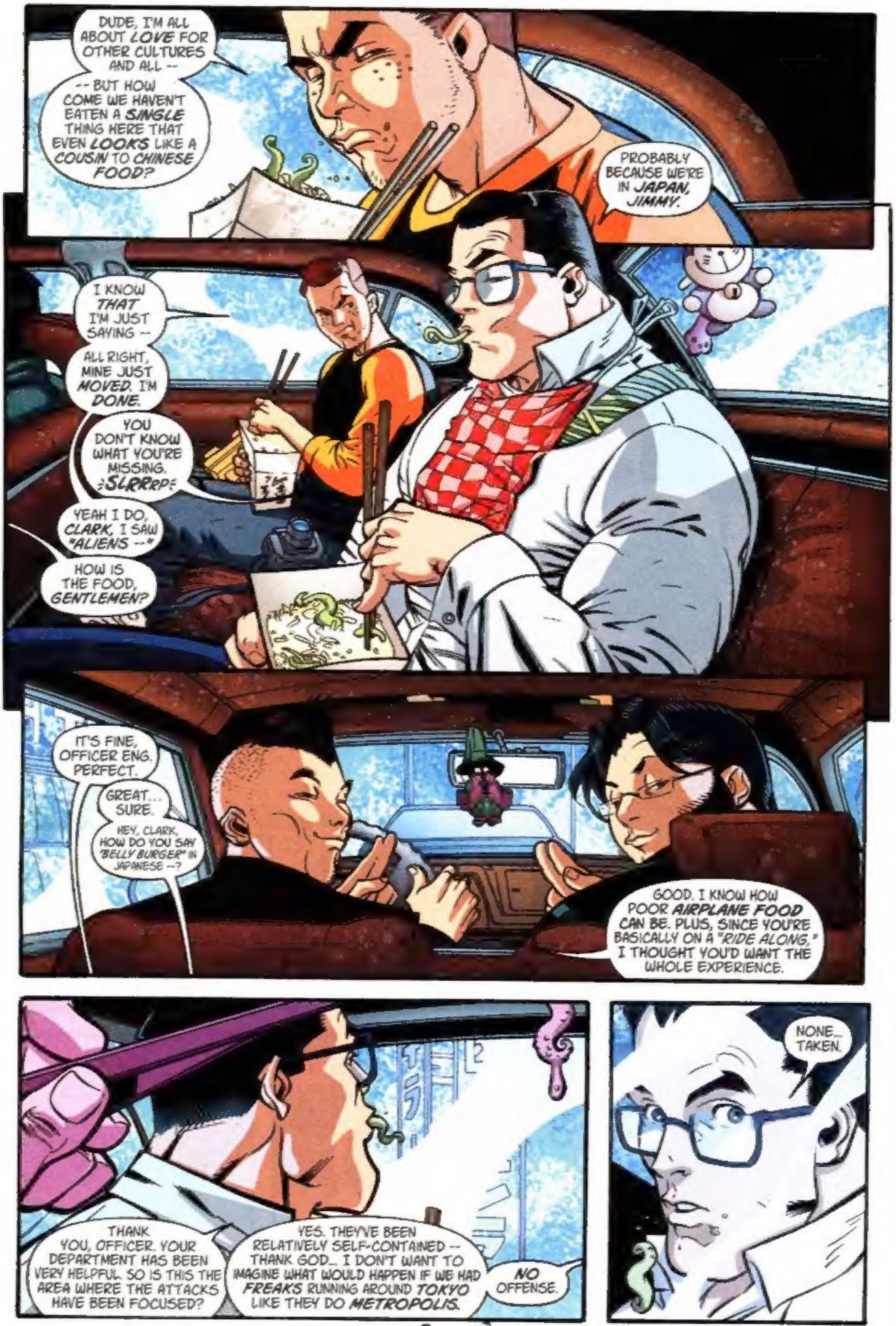
SUPERMAN
ACTION COMICS
787
MAR.02
LOVE AND DEATH
DIRECT SALES
78711
61941 20001 9
$2.25 US $3.75 CAN
DCCOMICS.COM
KELLY ◇ FERRY ◇ NEARY

CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, FRANCE.
"THIS HAS BEEN WONDERFUL, HASN'T IT? A REAL ADVENTURE."
"IT'S BEEN TOO SPECIAL, MOM. THE BEST."
"AN END TO ALL GOOD THINGS," THOUGH, YES? OF COURSE, WE'VE BEEN AWAY FOR SO LONG, GOING HOME IS ALMOST LIKE GOING SOMEPLACE NEW --
-- IN MY VERY CHIC NEW HAT, MIGHT I ADD...
YOU MIGHT.
YOU MUST BE THRILLED ABOUT GETTING HOME TO CLARK.
YOUR LITTLE RENDEZVOUS WITH "MA-IN-LAW" IN TOW CAN'T HAVE BEEN VERY ROMANTIC.
THEY WERE... THEY WERE FINE, MOM. CLARK KNEW WHY WE WERE ON THIS TRIP. HE UNDERSTANDS --
S'IL VOUS PLAIT, FLIGHT 215 TO METROPOLIS IS NOW BOARDING.
WELL THEN, THAT'S US... SHALL WE?
HERE'S AN IDEA FOR A COUPLE OF JET SETTERS LIKE US...
CAN YOU SAY "DINNER IN VIENNA"?


DUDE, I'M ALL ABOUT LOVE FOR OTHER CULTURES AND ALL --
-- BUT HOW COME WE HAVEN'T EATEN A SINGLE THING HERE THAT EVEN LOOKS LIKE A COUSIN TO CHINESE FOOD?
PROBABLY BECAUSE WE'RE IN JAPAN, JIMMY.
I KNOW THAT I'M JUST SAYING --
ALL RIGHT, MINE JUST MOVED. I'M DONE.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING. SLRRRP!
YEAH I DO, CLARK, I SAW "ALIENS --"
HOW IS THE FOOD, GENTLEMEN?
IT'S FINE, OFFICER ENG. PERFECT.
GREAT... SURE.
HEY, CLARK, HOW DO YOU SAY "BELLY BURGER" IN JAPANESE --?
GOOD. I KNOW HOW POOR AIRPLANE FOOD CAN BE. PLUS, SINCE YOU'RE BASICALLY ON A "RIDE ALONG," I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE.
THANK YOU, OFFICER. YOUR DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL. SO IS THIS THE AREA WHERE THE ATTACKS HAVE BEEN FOCUSED?
YES. THEY'VE BEEN RELATIVELY SELF-CONTAINED -- THANK GOD... I DON'T WANT TO IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE HAD FREAKS RUNNING AROUND TOKYO LIKE THEY DO METROPOLIS.
NO OFFENSE.
NONE... TAKEN.

Doomed Planet Krypton. The rocket. A child. Journey across cold space. Earth. Smallville. Crash landing. The Kents. Learns TRUTH. JUSTICE and THE AMERICAN WAY. Faster than a Speeding Bullet. Stronger than a Locomotive. A Man can fly. Believe.
SUPERMAN in ACTION COMICS
JIKEIKETSUKI:
MERCY, LOVE, AND BLOOD PART ONE
JOE KELLY writer PASCUAL FERRY penciller WALDEN WONG inks MOOSE BAUMANN colors
COMICRAFT letters TOM PALMER jr. assistant editor EDDIE BERGANZA editor
superman created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
"THOUGH WE'VE HAD OUR SHARE OF METAHUMAN ACTIVITY, IT'S NEVER BEEN AS COMMONPLACE AS IT HAS IN RECENT MONTHS --
"NOR HAS IT BEEN SO CLEARLY A TOOL OF THE BORYOKUDAN. ORGANIZED CRIME.
"WE'RE LOOKING AT A NEW ERA OF CRIME IN TOKYO IF THIS THING ISN'T STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS...
"BUT HOW DO YOU HANDCUFF A WAR GOD?"
"Some people say that when you get married, you lose something. Become half of a whole. I wasn't a complete person until I met my wife."
-- Clark Kent, Daily Planet. January, 2002

ACTION COMICS 787 March 2002. Published monthly by DC Comics. 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, PO. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $27.00. Canadian subscribers must add $12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright© 2002 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. Printed in Canada.
DC Comics. A division of Warner Bros.–An AOL Time Warner Company

MOST OF THE MEN WERE MIDLEVEL BORYOKUDAN. WE BELIEVE THEY WERE HERE TO MEET A RIVAL "FAMILY" TO DISCUSS TERRITORY. A PUBLIC PLACE IS USUALLY INSURANCE THAT THINGS STAY NONVIOLENT.
SO MUCH FOR "HONOR AMONG IDIOTS." HOW MANY DEAD?
SEVENTEEN. TWELVE OF THEM CIVILIANS. SURVIVORS OF THE ATTACK CLAIM ALL THIS WAS DONE BY ONE MAN. A DAY AGO --
AND THOSE EDGES ARE STILL HOT.
ONE MAN. AND YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS?
NEVER. WHY... HAVE YOU --?
(ENG! SHOTS FIRED AT ASAMIA'S.)♡
GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE TO ROLL. VIOLENCE ACROSS THE BAY AT ASAMIYA'S. HIS MEN WERE THE ONES KILLED HERE --
TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE -- ED.
HSSSST
AAAH!
OF ALL THE STUPID -- OWW.
LET ME SEE. WE'LL PUT MY SQUID GUNK ON IT --
NO, I'LL BE OKAY. JUST WANT TO TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF. GO WITH OFFICER ENG, JIMMY. TAKE GOOD SHOTS AND KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN --
CLARK, I'M NOT GOING TO JUST LEAVE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF TOKYO WITH THIRD DEGREE BURNS!
DON'T WORRY, I KNOW MY WAY AROUND THIS CITY. I MAY EVEN GET THERE BEFORE YOU DO.

"WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?"
"YEAH. CLARK CAN GET A LITTLE WEAK-KNEED SOMETIMES WHEN PAIN IS INVOLVED, BUT HE ALWAYS COMES THROUGH FOR A STORY.
"HEY, DO TOKYO COPS EVER STOP AT DONUT SHOPS?"
THIS IS NOT GOOD. I TOOK THIS ASSIGNMENT AS AN EXCUSE TO CHECK UP ON THE META-ACTIVITY IN JAPAN SINCE MY LAST VISIT, BUT --
-- I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS. IT CAN'T BE HIM... NOT AFTER ALL THIS TIME... IT CAN'T BE.
GUNSHOTS. THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.
BRATTA BRATTA
WHOEVER CAUSED THAT WRECKAGE BACK IN GINZA DOES NOT GET A CHANCE TO DO IT AGAIN --
:HGGCHE
<K-KILL M-ME... D-DON'T L-LEAVE M-ME LIKE...>
:HGGCHE
GOOD LORD.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
BRATTA BRAKA

HGLCH
(DIE, WITCH! DIE!)
BRATTA BRAKA BRATTA
(AHHH! STOP! NOOO!)

BRATTA BRAKA
<KILL HER! KILL HER!>
<IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S NOT POSSIBLE--!>
THWIPP
AHHH--!
<LET THEM GO.>
<ALIVE.>
I CANNOT.
No!

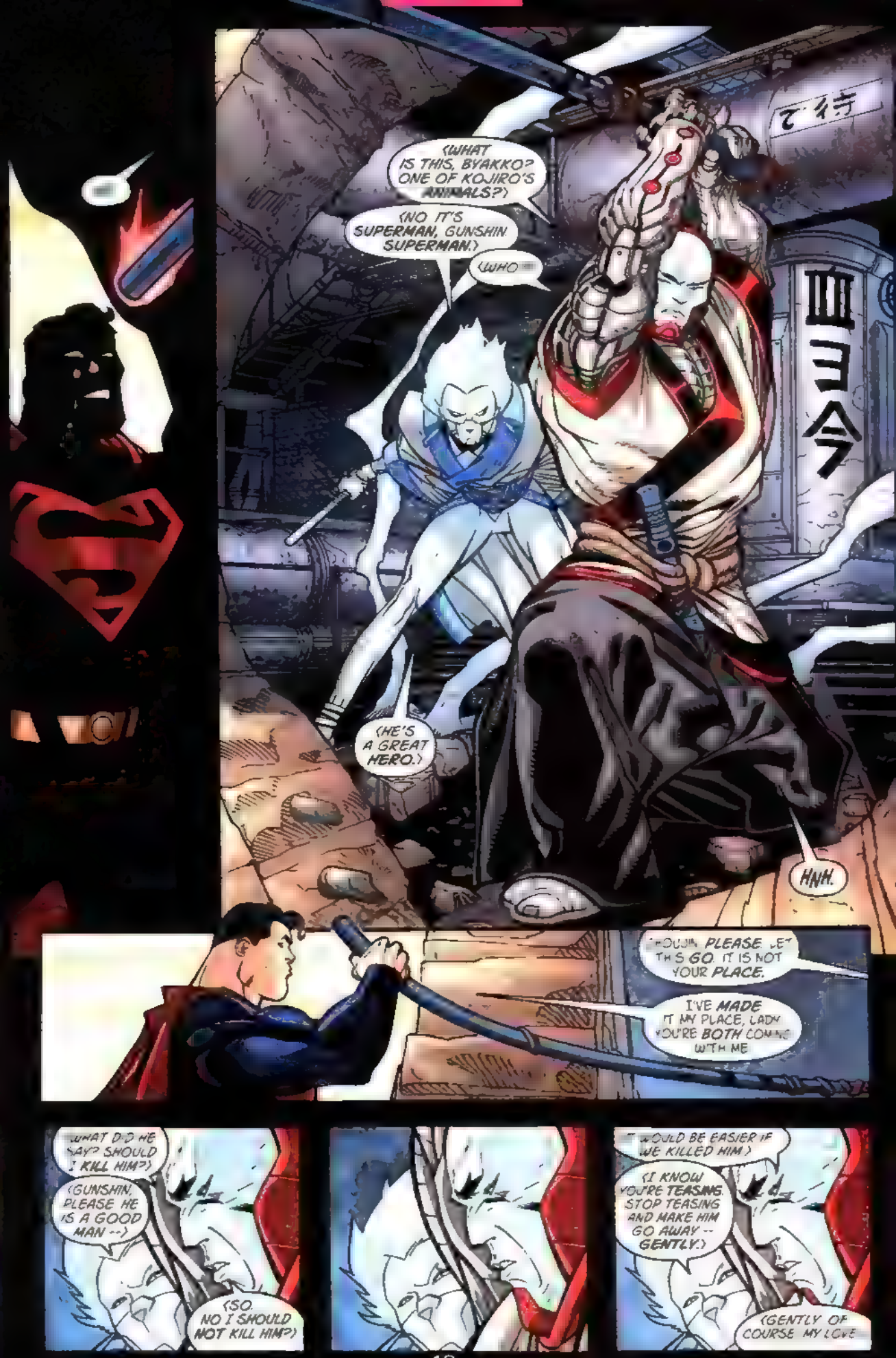
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THEM?! THEY'RE IN CARDIAC ARREST!
WUMP WUMP WUMP
THEY WERE DEAD WELL BEFORE I TOUCHED THEM. DO NOT MOURN THEM. THAT ONE IS A RAPIST AND MURDERER OF CHILDREN.
HIS PARTNER HAS DONE WORSE --
THAT DOES NOT GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO DO THE SAME!
BLOOD DEMANDS BLOOD.
I AM SORRY YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, BUT I AM NOT A TEACHER. I AM A CLEANSER, CHOUJIN.
MAY YOU FIND PEACE WITH THIS WORLD --
YOU JUST MURDERED TEN MEN! I DON'T CARE WHO THEY WERE, I'M NOT JUST GOING TO LET YOU LEAVE!
AGAIN, CHOUJIN, I APOLOGIZE --
-- YOU HAVE NO CHOICE. YOU CANNOT HOLD WHAT YOU CANNOT TOUCH.
???
DO NOT FOLLOW. PLEASE. STAY IN THE LIGHT.

ZZZIP
NO. THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS. NOT TONIGHT.
I DON'T CARE WHETHER WE'RE IN AMERICA OR TOKYO -- A LIFE IS A LIFE. JUSTICE IS NOT METED OUT ON THE STREETS.

"JUSTICE" WAS CARRIED OUT IN JAPAN LONG BEFORE THE INCEPTION OF AN ORGANIZED POLICE DEPARTMENT, CHOUJIN.

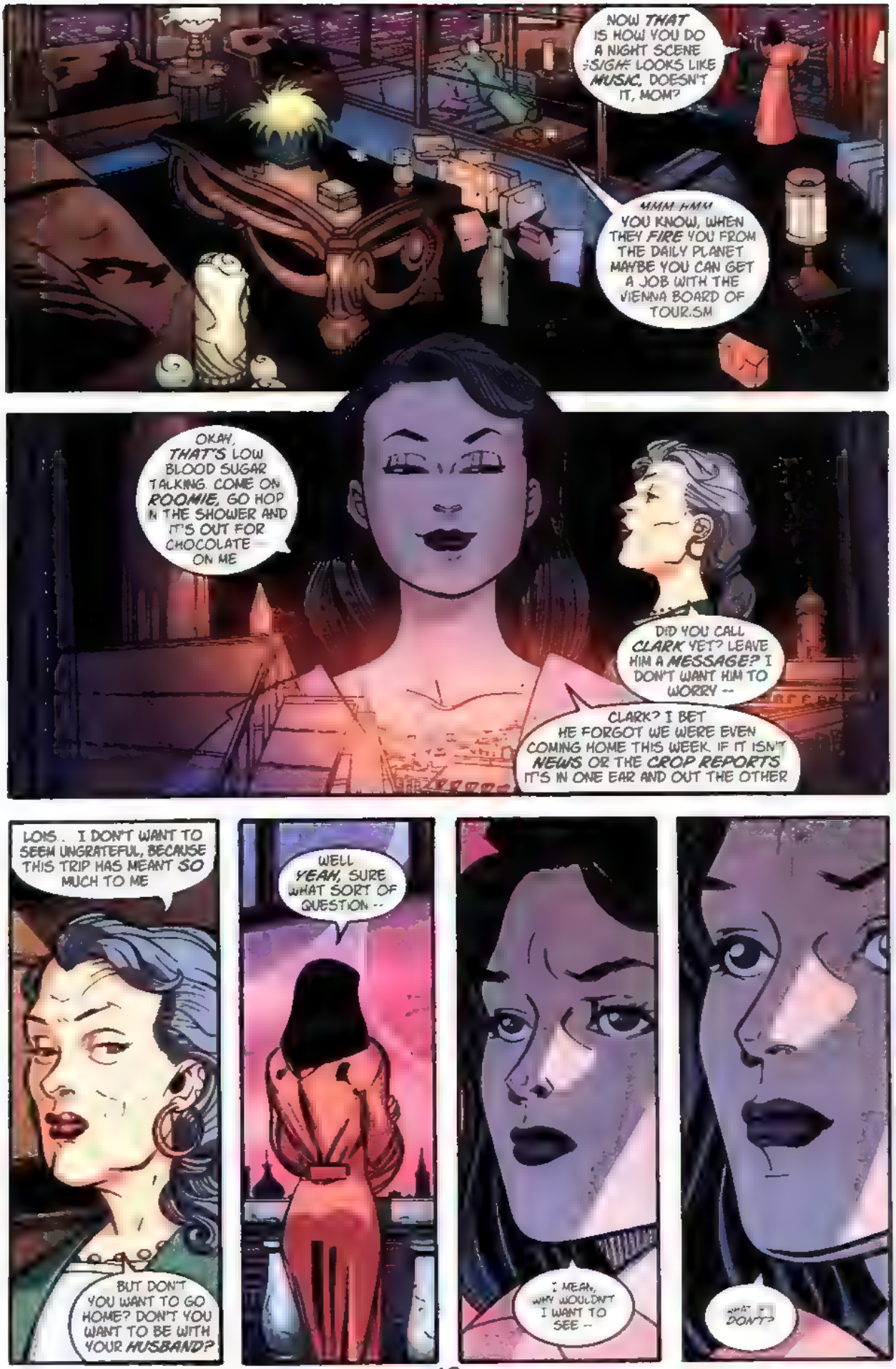
IT HAS LOST ITS BITE. WE WOULD CHANGE THAT. ESPECIALLY NOW.

"WE"?
CHOOM


(WHAT IS THIS, BYAKKO? ONE OF KOJIRO'S ANIMALS?)
(NO. IT'S SUPERMAN, GUNSHIN SUPERMAN.)
(WHO
(HE'S A GREAT HERO.)
HNH.
PLEASE LET THIS GO. IT IS NOT YOUR PLACE.
I'VE MADE IT MY PLACE, LADY YOU'RE BOTH COMING WITH ME
(WHAT DID HE SAY? SHOULD I KILL HIM?)
(GUNSHIN, PLEASE. HE IS A GOOD MAN --)
(SO. NO I SHOULD NOT KILL HIM?)
(IT WOULD BE EASIER IF WE KILLED HIM.)
(I KNOW YOU'RE TEASING. STOP TEASING AND MAKE HIM GO AWAY -- GENTLY.)
(GENTLY. OF COURSE. MY LOVE

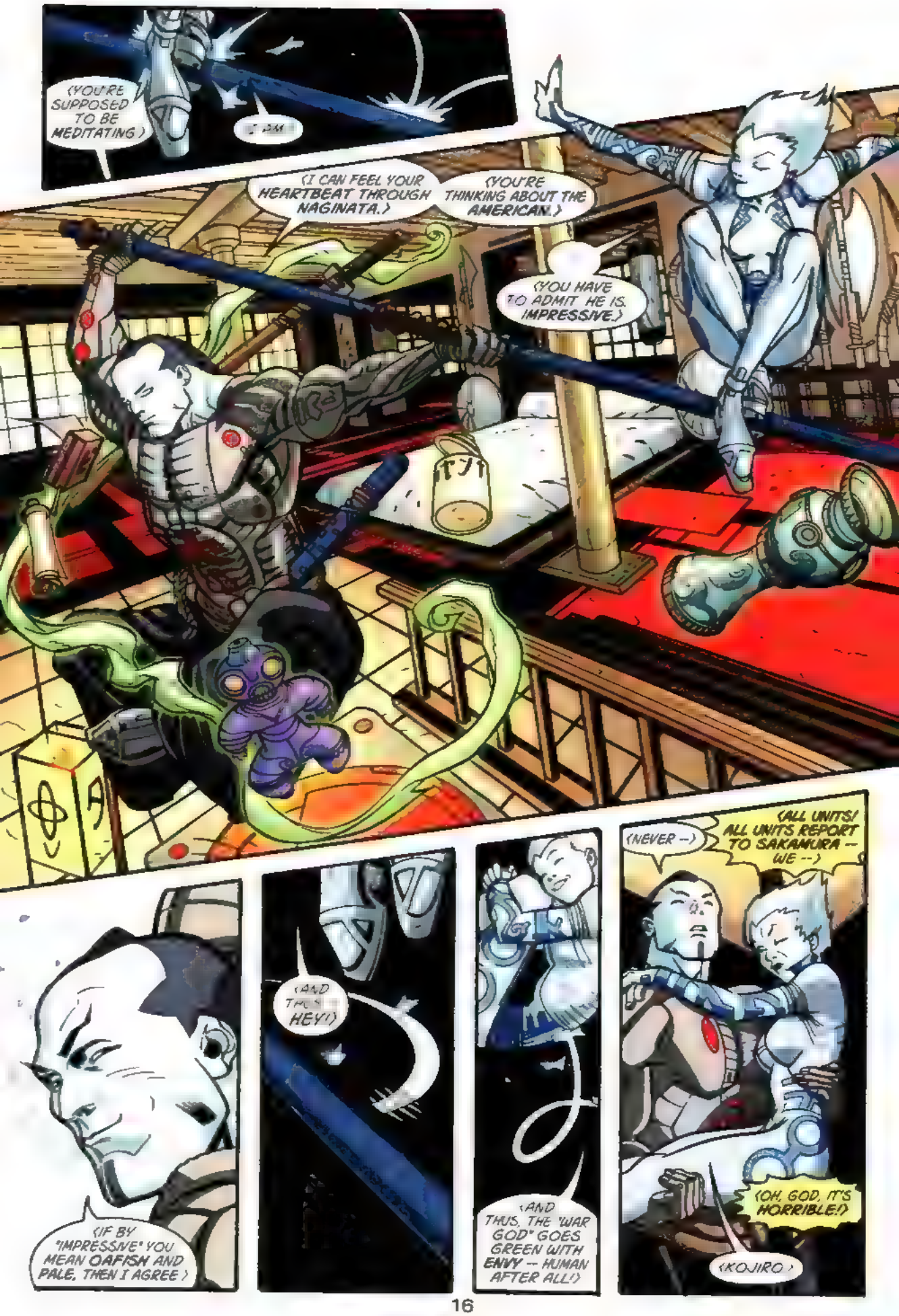
"HEAVY"
WHA--
WHOA!
KRRRRRRRK!
FOOOM
"GENTLY"
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM

HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSH
KA-CHOOM
:PTU:
:PFFT
:KFF
-PTU-
I DON'T LIKE THAT MAN.


NOW THAT IS HOW YOU DO A NIGHT SCENE :SIGH: LOOKS LIKE MUSIC, DOESN'T IT, MOM?
MMM HMM YOU KNOW, WHEN THEY FIRE YOU FROM THE DAILY PLANET MAYBE YOU CAN GET A JOB WITH THE VIENNA BOARD OF TOURISM
OKAY, THAT'S LOW BLOOD SUGAR TALKING. COME ON ROOMIE, GO HOP IN THE SHOWER AND IT'S OUT FOR CHOCOLATE ON ME
DID YOU CALL CLARK YET? LEAVE HIM A MESSAGE? I DON'T WANT HIM TO WORRY --
CLARK? I BET HE FORGOT WE WERE EVEN COMING HOME THIS WEEK. IF IT ISN'T NEWS OR THE CROP REPORTS IT'S IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER
LOIS . I DON'T WANT TO SEEM UNGRATEFUL, BECAUSE THIS TRIP HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME
BUT DON'T YOU WANT TO GO HOME? DON'T YOU WANT TO BE WITH YOUR HUSBAND?
WELL YEAH, SURE WHAT SORT OF QUESTION --
I MEAN, WHY WOULDN'T I WANT TO SEE --
WHAT I DON'T?

-- RAISED THE BAR IN THE WAR AGAINST THE BORYOKUDAN WHEN BOTH METAHUMAN VIGILANTES BYAKKO AND GUNSHIN WERE SEEN SPARRING WITH SUPERMAN --)
--AFTER A DEADLY RAID ON THE "ALLEGED" DRUG TRAFFICKING HEADQUARTERS OF "THE TIGER" KOJIRO--"
KLIK
(ENOUGH)
(I HAVE HAD ENOUGH.)
(THIS ORGANIZATION RAN EFFICIENTLY AND DISCREETLY BEFORE WE EVER THREW OUR LOT IN WITH YOUR KIND.)
(NOW, INSTEAD OF THE DOMINATION YOU PROMISED, WE HAVE BRED MORE POTENT ENEMIES-- AND ATTRACTED CHOUJIN TO OUR WORLD.)
(I AM NOT PLEASED
(I WANT CONTROL OF TOKYO NOW.)
(I WANT BYAKKO AND GUNSHIN ELIMINATED NOW.)
(I WANT CHOUJIN GONE NOW.)
(CAN YOU DO THESE THINGS? OR SHALL I CONSIDER THIS "EXPERIMENT" OF YOUR TENURE A FAILURE?)
(THERE IS NO "FAILURE" IN YOUR HOUSE, KOJIRO. WHEN I MAKE YOUR DREAMS INTO FLESH, YOU WILL SEE.)
(TOKYO IS YOURS FOR THE TAKING. I WILL MAKE IT SO.)

WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A REAL PHOTO OF GUNSHIN AND BYAKKO.
TROUBLE BETWEEN KOJIRO AND ASAMIYA'S CLANS STARTS, THEY ARRIVE BEFORE WE DO-- BOOM. ONLY BODIES REMAIN.
DOES THE TOKYO P.D. HAVE WARRANTS OUT FOR THEIR ARREST?
HEH OF COURSE BUT NO ONE'S PURSUING THEM
WHY NOT?
OFFICIALLY? "THE TOKYO POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TAXED TO ITS LIMITS IN LIGHT OF THIS OUTBREAK OF METAHUMAN ACTIVITY. THIS IS A NEW ENEMY, AND WE MUST INVENT NEW TACTICS."
OFF THE RECORD?
AIN'T IT ALWAYS?
MOST PEOPLE HOPE THEY'LL KILL OFF THE METAS WORKING FOR KOJIRO AND THE REST, AND MAYBE THINGS CAN GET BACK TO NORMAL.
WORKED WHEN THE ELITE KILLED THE SAMURAI ROSHU, RIGHT?
THE SYSTEM OF CIVILIZED PEOPLE WASN'T MEANT TO HANDLE CREATURES LIKE THIS, MISTER KENT. THIS IS FEUDAL JAPAN ALL OVER AGAIN--
-- ONLY THEY'RE SAMURAI GODS, FIGHTING DOWN A BLOOD DEBT. HOW DO WE HOLD THEM TO THE LAWS OF MAN?
AND SHOULD WE, IF THEY ONLY PUNISH THE WICKED?


(YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MEDITATING.)
I AM.
(I CAN FEEL YOUR HEARTBEAT THROUGH NAGINATA.)
(YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THE AMERICAN.)
(YOU HAVE TO ADMIT HE IS. IMPRESSIVE.)
(IF BY "IMPRESSIVE" YOU MEAN OAFISH AND PALE, THEN I AGREE.)
(AND THUS, THE "WAR GOD" GOES GREEN WITH ENVY -- HUMAN AFTER ALL!)
(NEVER --)
(ALL UNITS! ALL UNITS REPORT TO SAKAMURA -- WE --)
(OH, GOD, IT'S HORRIBLE!)
(KOJIRO.)

IT'S LUNCHTIME. THE STREETS ARE PACKED.
I HEAR NOTHING OVER THE BURNING CUBE EATING FIVE SQUARE BLOCKS OF TOKYO.
NOTHING

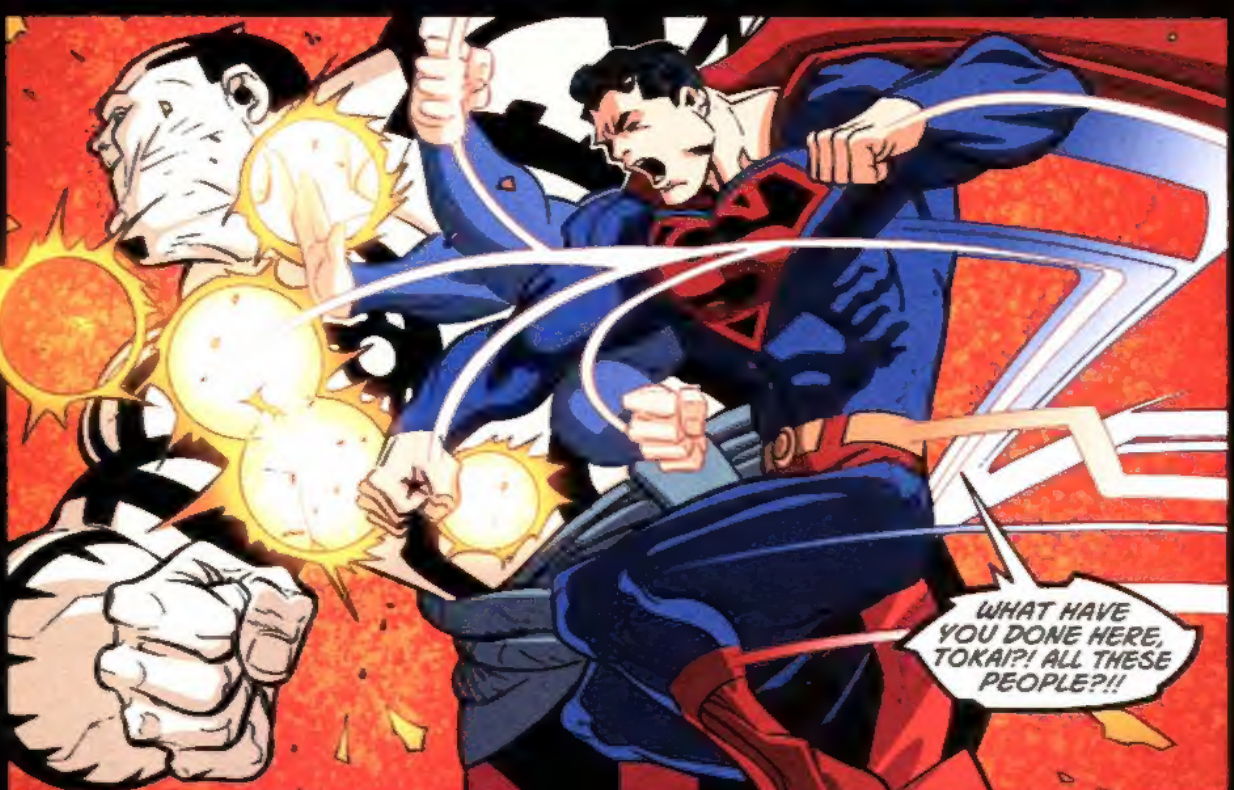
WHAT KIND OF "WAR" IS THIS?
PLEASE, LET SOMEONE BE ALIVE.

SOMEONE IS.

BUT NOT HER.
DO YOU WATCH JAPANESE NEWS? I HEAR SHE WAS A VERY POPULAR REPORTER WITH THE SEVENTEEN TO FORTY DEMOGRAPHIC
76-01
YOU HAVE TO [illegible] HER WITH SKIN TO SEE IT, I GUESS OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD.
IN HER NEXT LIFE, PERHAPS SHE'LL KNOW TO STAY AWAY FROM ASAMIYA'S OFFICES. DANGEROUS MEN WORK THERE
THEY'RE OVER THERE IF YOU WOULD [illegible]KE TO *BRING THEM TO [illegible]STICE * MOST OF THEM
TOKA!

HELLO, SUPERMAN! WE'VE MET, HAVEN'T WE?

KACHOOM
VRRRRRRM
A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU TOO. AH, YES, I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU ALL THESE YEARS. BUT I WASN'T SURE...


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE HERE, TOKAI?! ALL THESE PEOPLE?!!

CHEMICAL SUSPENSION CUBE PATTERN. A NEW WEAPON THAT TURNS THE AIR TO FLAME.
NOT MY INVENTION, BUT DESIGNED BY ME FOR MY "BOSS" THAT HE MAY LAY HIS ENEMIES LOW AND STRIKE TERROR INTO THEM.
I'VE NEVER HAD MORE FUN IN MY LIFE. THIS IS THE TOKYO OF THE NEW AGE. OUR AGE, SUPERMAN. REMEMBER? I TOLD YOU THIS WOULD COME...
YOU STILL HIT LIKE A GAIJIN... HEH.
DID YOU SEE THAT SCHOOL BUS?
MONSTER! THIS MUST END! YOU'RE TEARING THIS CITY APART PLAYING GAMES!
GUESS YOU DID.
YOU'VE CHANGED, SUPERMAN... YOU KNOW THAT? YOU'RE MUCH MORE ANGRY...

FWAMMP
I LIKE IT!
SLASHHH
BUT I STILL TOLD YOU NEVER TO RETURN TO JAPAN.
CHOOOM
T-TOKAI -- HOW? FEEL SO -- NNNSH!
KRAKOOM

YOU'RE IMPRESSED. WHO WOULDN'T BE? I'VE STUDIED. I'VE PRACTICED.
I'VE OVERCOME PERSONAL TRAGEDY AND A SPEECH DEFECT AND NOW... I'M A HERO KILLER.
T-TOKAI... STOP THIS...
BY THE WAY... IT'S NOT TOKAI ANYMORE...
IT'S SAKKI.
THE HATE FURNACE.
WELCOME TO EXTINCTION.
TO BE CONTINUED!